Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-38 (Cancelled).

39. (Currently amended) A dry powder inhaler pharmaceutical composition comprising a mixture of one or more particulate pharmaceutically active ingredients and a particulate roller-dried anhydrous β-lactose excipient, said excipient having a particle size comprised between 50 and 250μm, and a rugosity comprised between 1.9 and 2.4**[[**~~; and wherein a ratio of active ingredients/excipient is from about 0.1/100 to about 50/100~~**]]**.

40. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 39, in which the particulate roller-dried anhydrous β-lactose excipient has a particle size comprised between 100 and 160μm.

41. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 39, in which the particulate roller-dried anhydrous β-lactose excipient has a particle size comprised between 90 and 250μm.

42. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 39, in which the particulate roller-dried anhydrous β-lactose excipient is prepared from a lactose solution in demineralized water fed between two counter-rotating drums, which are steam-heated, and after drying scraped from the surface of the drums by knives.

43. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 39, in which the particulate pharmaceutically active ingredients are a particulate solid with a particle diameter between 0.5 and 6μm.

44. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 39, in which the particulate pharmaceutically active ingredients are selected from the group consisting of mucolytics, steroids, sympathomimetics, proteins, peptides, inhibitors of mediators release and mixtures thereof.

45. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 44, in which the composition comprises a mucolytic agent, which is L-lysine N-acetylcysteinate, as the pharmaceutically active ingredient.

46. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 39, which comprises a mixture of particulate L-lysine N-acetylcysteinate and roller-dried anhydrous β-lactose excipient, said excipient being constituted by particles of 100 to 160 μm in size.

47. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 45, in which the weight ratio of particulate L-lysine N-acetylcysteinate in relation to the particulate roller-dried anhydrous β-lactose excipient is between 1:2 to 1:6.

48. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 41, in which the ratio of active ingredients/excipient is 1:4.

49. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 39, wherein said pharmaceutically active ingredient is budesonide.

50. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 39, wherein said pharmaceutically-active ingredient is salbutamol.

51. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 39, wherein said pharmaceutically-active ingredient is sodium cromoglycate.

52. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 47, wherein said weight ratio is 1:2 to 1:4.

53. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a dry powder inhaler pharmaceutical composition comprising a mixture of a particulate pharmaceutically-active ingredient and a particulate roller-dried anhydrous β-1actose lactose excipient, which comprises a step of mixing a dry particulate pharmaceutical active ingredient with a particulate roller-dried anhydrous β-lactose excipient.

54. (New) The process of claim 53, wherein the particulate roller-dried anhydrous β-lactose excipient has particle size comprised between 50 and 250μm.

55. (New) The composition of Claim 39, having a ratio of active ingredients/excipient of from about 0.1/100 to about 50/100.